

## Bill Nye's Sad Thoughts.

### The Wanderer Halts in Minneapolis and Writes the Thinks He Has Thought.

Lines on the Prosperous Porter--Where Cleveland Lost Votes and Was "Downed" by a Re-Porter--The Baggage-Man's Alphabet.

Every thoughtful student has doubtless noticed that when he enters the office or autograph department of an American inn, a lithe and alert male person seizes his valise or traveling bag with much earnestness. He conveys it to some sequestered spot and does not return again. He is the porter of the hotel or inn. He may be an humble porter just starting out, or he may be a swollen or purse-proud porter with silver in his hair and also in his sock. I speak of the porter and his humble lot in order to show the average American boy who may read these lines that humor is not the only thing in America which yields large dividends on a very small capital. To be a porter does not require great genius or education, or intellectual versatility, and yet, well attended to, the business is remunerative in the extreme and often yields excellent returns. It shows that any American boy who does faithfully and well the work assigned to him may become well-to-do and prosperous.

Last week I shook hands with a conductor on the Milwaukee & St. Paul railroad who is the president of a bank. There is a general impression in the public mind that conductors all die poor, but here is "Jerry," as every body calls him, a man of forty-five years of age perhaps, with a long head of whiskers and the pleasant position of president of the Irish-American Bank. As he thoughtfully slams the doors from car to car, collecting fare on children who are no longer young, and whose parents seem to conceal them under the seats, or as he goes from passenger to passenger, sticking large blue checks in their new silk hats, and otherwise taking advantage of people, he is sustained and soothed by the blessed thought that he has done the best he could, and that some day, when the summons comes to lay aside his smiling lantern and make his last run, he will leave his dear ones provided for. Perhaps I ought to add that during all these years of Jerry's prosperity, the road has also managed to keep the wolf from the door. I mention it because it is so rare for the conductor and the road to make money at the same time. I knew a conductor on the Union Pacific railroad some years ago who used to make a great deal of money, but he did not invest it wisely, and so today is not the president of a bank. He made a great deal of money in one way or another while on his run, but the man with whom he was wont to play poker in the evening is now the president of the bank. The conductor is in the pique.

It was here in Minneapolis that Mr. Cleveland was injudicious. He and his wife were pained to read the following conversation in the paper on the day after their visit to the Flour City:

"Yes, I like the town pretty well but the people, some of 'em are to be blamed for."

"Do you think so Grover?" I thought they were very nice, indeed, and still I think I like St. Paul the best. It is so old and respectable."

"Oh yes, respectability is good enough in its place, but it can be overdone. I like Washington, where respectability is not made a hobby."

"But are you not enjoying yourself here, honey?"

"No I am not. To tell the truth I am very unhappy. I'm afraid for fear that I'll say something about the place that will be used against me by the St. Paul folks, that I almost wish I was dead, and everybody wants to show me the new bridge and water-works, and speak of our great and phenomenal growth, and show me the population statistics, and the school-house and the Washburn residence, and the saw-mill, and the boom, and walk me up into the thirteenth story of a flour mill, and pour corn meal down my back, and show me the wonderful growth of the city debt and the sewage, and the West Hotel and the glorious ozone and things here that makes me tired. And I have to look happy and shake hands, and say it knocks 'St. Paul gilly, while I don't think so at all, and I wish I could do something besides be President for a couple of weeks and quit lying almost entirely except when I went fishing."

"But do you think the people here are very cordial dawdling?"

"Yes they're too cordial for me altogether. Instead of talking about the wonderful hit I have made as President, and calling attention to my remarkable administration, they talk about flour output and the electric plant and other crops here, and allude feelingly to 'number one hard' and chintz bugs and other flora and fauna of this country which, to be honest with you, I do not and never did give a dam for--"

"Grover!"

"Well, I beg pardon, dear, and I oughtn't to speak that way before you but if you knew how much better I feel now you would not speak so harshly to me. It is, indeed, hard to be ever gay and joyous before the great masses who as a general thing do not know enough to pound sand but who are still vested with the divine right of suffrage; and so must be treated gently and loved and smiled at till it makes me ache."

Mr. Cleveland was greatly annoyed by the publication of this conversation, and could not understand it until this fall, when a Minneapolis man told him that the pale, haughty coachman who drove the presidential carriage was a reporter. He could handle a team with one hand and remember things with the other.

And so I say that as a President we cannot be too careful what we say. I hope that the little boys and girls who read this may become Presidents or wives of Presidents, will bear this in mind, and always have a kind word for one and all, whether they feel that way or not. But I started out to speak of porters and not reporters. I carry with me, this year, a small satchel bag, weighing a little over twenty ounces. It contains a slight bottle of horse medicine and a powder rag. Sometimes it also contains a costly robe de nuit, when I do not for get and leave said robe in the sleeping-car or hotel. I am not over-drawing this matter, however, when I say honestly that the shrill cry of fire at night in most any hotel in the U. S. now, would bring to the fire-escape from one to six employees of said hotel wearing these costly vestments with my brief but imperishable name engraved on the bosom. This little traveling-bag, which is not larger than a man's hand, is rudely pulled out of my grasp as I enter the inn and it cost me \$29 to get it back from the porter. Besides, I have paid \$8.25 for new handles to replace those that have been torn off in a frantic scuffle between the porter and myself to see which would get away with it.

Yesterday I was talking with a reformed lecturer about this peculiarity of the porters. He said he used to lecture a great deal at moderate prices throughout the country, and after ten years of earnest toil he was enabled to retire with rich experience and \$9 in money. He lectured on phrenology and took his meals with the chairman of the lecture committee. In Ouray, Col., the baggage allowed his trunk to fall from a great height, and so the lid was knocked off and the bust which the professor used in his lecture was busted.

He, therefore, had to borrow a bald-headed man to act as bust for him in the evening. After the close of the lecture the professor found that the bust had stolen the good receipts from his coat-tail pocket while he was lecturing. The only improbable feature about this bald-headed man would commit a crime. But still he did not become soured. He pressed on and lectured to the janitors of the land in piercing tones. He was always kind to everyone, even when people criticized his lecture and went away before he got through. He forgave them and paid his bills just the same as he did when people liked him.

Once a newspaper man who had done him a great wrong by saying that "the lecture was decayed" and that the professor would endeavor himself to everyone, if he would some night at his hotel, instead of blowing out the gas and turning off his brains, as he usually did, just turn out the gas and blow out his brains. But the professor did not go to his office and blow holes in his viscera. He spoke kindly to him always, and once when the two met in a barber shop, and it was doubtful who was "next" as they came in from opposite ends of the room, the professor gently yielded the chair to the man who had done him the wrong, and while the barber was shaving him eleven tons of ceiling peeled off and fell on the editor who had been so cruel and rude, and when they gathered up the debris, a day or two afterward, it was almost impossible to tell which was ceiling and which was remains. So it is always best to deal gently with the erring, especially if you think it will be fatal to them.

## The Colonel's Bet.

### "A boy is a strange being, isn't he?" queried the colonel, as he looked out of the office window.

"I don't see anything so very strange about that particular boy," replied one of the other loungers, as he sauntered up and saw a boy of 10 on the opposite side of the street.

"But he's got a jug," persisted the colonel.

"Well, what of it? Can't a boy carry a jug?"

"But he is swinging it around his head."

"Let him swing. You never saw a boy who wouldn't."

"I'll bet he breaks it before he gets to the corner," exclaimed the colonel.

"Nonsense?"

"Bet you twenty dollars."

"Done!"

"Half a dozen rushed up to see further proceedings. The boy continued to swing the jug, apparently bent upon performing some particular feat, and just before he reached the corner his hand slipped and the jug was dashed to pieces.

"I knew it! I knew it!" chuckled the colonel as he danced around.

"Drat him--here's your money!" growled the other.

An hour later, after having spent the interval in solemn thought, the loser mildly inquired:

"Colonel, did you think you had a sure thing on me?"

"Certainly, I bought that jug for the boy, and gave him fifty cents to carry out the program."--St. Paul News.

## Mark Twain on Warts.

### The Humorist Relates How Even a Tattoo Mark Can be Removed.

[New York Sun.]

I find the inclosed derelict wandering about the ocean of journalism:

"I'd give \$1,000, said a well-to-do New Yorker the other day, to have that mark removed," and he held out a well-shaped and well-cared-for hand, on the back of which, between the thumb and first finger was tattooed a big blue anchor.

"When I was a little fool at school with my head full of stories of adventure, my highest ambition was to go to sea. An old sailor who lived in the village tattooed about a dozen of us on the sly, and I remember the lies I told my mother, as I kept my hand done up in a rag, pretending I had cut it, till the sore healed. Then she gave me a thrashing as broke up my plan, fortunately, to have a red and blue on the back of the other.

The disfigurement has caused me no end of annoyance and since has cost me considerable money for gloves, which I wear, winter and summer, though I detest them in warm weather. But a man can't wear gloves at the table, and often at restaurants I catch people staring at my hand, and I wonder if they think I have served my term in the lo'castle of some oyster or lumber schooner."

A tattoo mark is easily removed. May I drop into personal history? When I was a small boy I had my share of warts. I tried in turn 365 ways of removing them, but without results; indeed, I seemed to get wartier and wartier right along. But at last some one revealed to me the 366th way, and I tried it. Thus: I drove a needle down into the basement of the wart; then held the other end of it in the flame of a candle some little time; the needle became red hot throughout its length and proceeded to cook the wart. Presently I drew the needle out; it had white atoms like nits sticking about its point, that wart was done for; if the point was clear, I drove it in again and cooked till I got those things. They were the roots of the wart. Twenty-four hours later the wart would become soft and flabby, and I removed it with a single wipe of my hand. Where it had been is a smooth surface now and left no scar. Within two days I was wartless and have so remained until this day.

When I was about sixteen years old a sailor tattooed an anchor and rope on the back of my left hand with Indian ink. The color was a deep, dark blue, and extravagantly conspicuous. I was proud of it for a while, but by the time I had worn it nine years I was tired and ashamed of it. I could find nobody who could tell me how to get rid of it; but at last my wart experience occurred to me, and I got me several needles and a candle straightway. I drove the needles along just under the surface of the skin and tolerably close together, and made them include the whole tattoo mark; then I fired up on them and cooked the device thoroughly. Next day I wiped the device off with my hand. The place quickly healed and left no scar. A faint bluish tint remained and I was minded to begin again and cook that out; but as it was

hardly detectable and not noticeable, it did not seem worth the fuel, and so I left it there, and there it is yet, though I suppose I am the only member of my tribe that knows it.

I was in London a good many years ago when the Tichborne claimant's case was being tried, and a batch of learned experts testified that an India ink tattoo mark could not be removed, but I was not asked to testify, and so those people don't know any better to this day. Let the "well-to-do New Yorker" fetch me some needles and a candle and name his bet. I will take him up.

MARK TWAIN.

## Settling an Oklahoma Difficulty.

"This is my claim."

"Well, you'll have a sweet time getting me off it. Do you know who I am?"

"No."

"I'm Bloody Pete, the North Platt terror, with a record of seventeen men. You'll make the eighthteenth if you don't skip out of here in just ten seconds."

"Perhaps you don't know who I am?"

"Now."

"I'm a member of the Indiana legislature."

"Put 'er there, pard! You and I can take this claim together and hold it again the world."

"Why, take a counsel to a witness are you so very precise in your statement? Are you afraid of telling an untruth?"

Witness (promptly): "No sir."

At a recent inquiry into the sanity of a young man of large property, witnesses were being called to prove that he was unfit to manage his affairs. A curious slip was made by a school master when asked if he had formed any opinion as to the state of mind of the alleged lunatic. "Oh, yes, he replied; I can certify he is an idiot. He was one of my favorite pupils."

"I have met this man, said a lawyer, in a great many places where I would be ashamed to be seen myself; and then he paused and looked with astonishment at the smiling court and jury.

## The Dearest Book in the World.

[Bulletin de l'Imprimerie.]

What was the highest price ever given for a book? We may venture to say that we know of one for which the sum of 250,000 francs (\$40,000) was paid by its present owner, the German Government.

That book is a missal formerly given by Pope Leo X. to King Henry VIII. of England, along with a parchment conferring on that sovereign the right of assuming the title of "Defender of the Faith," borne ever since by English Kings. Charles II. made a present of the missal to the ancestor of the famous Duke of Hamilton, whose extensive and valuable library was sold some years ago by Messrs. Sotheby Wilkinson & Hodge, of London. The book which received the highest offer was a Hebrew Bible, in the possession of the Vatican. In 1612 the Jews of Venice proposed to Pope Julius II. to buy the Bible and to pay for it by its weight in gold. It was so heavy that it required two men to carry it. Indeed, it weighed 325 pounds thus representing the value of half a million of francs (\$20,000). Though being much pressed for money, in order to keep up the "Holy League" against King Louis XII. of France, Julius II. declined to part with the volume.

A \$5 Book For \$1.00. How To Build A House.

If you are thinking of building a house you ought to buy the new book, "Palmer's American Architect," or every man a complete guide, prepared by Palmer & Co., the best known architects in the country. It is a book that every man should have. It is a book that every man should have. It is a book that every man should have.

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## The Sun

### For 1889 and for the Democracy.

The Sun believes that the campaign for the election of a Democratic Congress in 1890 and a Democratic President in 1892 should begin on or about the fourth of next March. The Sun will be on hand at the beginning and until the end of the most interesting and important political conflict since the war, doing its honest utmost, as before, to secure the triumph of the Democratic party and the permanent supremacy of the principles held by Jefferson, Jackson and Tilden.

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## TIME TABLE

### Columbus & Cincinnati Midland

November 18, 1888  
CENTRAL TIME.

EAST BOUND

Ar. Cincinnati 7:10 p.m. 8:50 a.m. 10:30 p.m.

Ar. Columbus 7:40 p.m. 9:20 a.m. 11:00 p.m.

Ar. Cincinnati 8:10 p.m. 9:50 a.m. 11:30 p.m.

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